

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 8-13 are pending. By this Amendment, canceled claims 1-7 are replaced with new claims 8-13. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Applicant notes the claim objections based on the English spelling of the various words in the claims and specification, including “synchronisation” and “characterised”. By this Amendment, claims 1-7 are canceled and replaced with new claims 8-13 which use the American English version of the word “synchronization”. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim objections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

By this Amendment, claims 1-7 have been canceled in favor of new claims 8-13, which are drawn to a chair comprising a base and a chair synchronization mechanism. Thus, it is clear that the scope of the claims is directed to the chair and not only the chair synchronization mechanism.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Bock (U.S. Patent No. 6,796,611). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 8 is directed to a chair comprising a base on which at least one seat frame and at least one backrest frame are hinged; and a chair synchronization mechanism having at least one stiffening spring positioned directly between said base and said backrest frame, and a device to adjust the stiffness of said at least one spring including structure to move one end of said at least

one spring with respect to its other end, said structure comprising at least one cam element provided to said base, said cam element being positionable to act acting on the end to be moved of said at least one spring, the other end of said at least one spring being directly linked to said backrest frame, wherein said structure comprises at least one connecting rod, hinged at one end to said base and engaged, at its other end, with the end to be moved of said at least one spring, and wherein said cam element is movable relative to and engages with said at least one connecting rod.

Bock does not disclose this subject matter. For example, Bock does not teach a stiffening support spring positioned directly between said base and said backrest frame, and one end of the spring being acted upon by a cam and the other end of the spring being directly linked to the backrest frame, as set forth in claim 8. Further, Bock does not teach or suggest at least one connection rod hinged at one end to said base and engaged at its other end with the end to be moved of said at least one spring, and wherein the cam element engages with said at least one connecting rod.

Bock teaches springs 24 to connect the base carrier 1 to the seat carrier 4. This means that forces possibly exerted by the user on the back rest are not directly transmitted to the springs 24, and thus to the relevant cams 35. Thus, Bock does not disclose that “the other end of the spring is directly linked to the backrest frame,” as claimed.

Also, Bock is completely silent in regard to the claimed at least one connecting rod which is hinged at one end to said base. Bock discloses a mechanism in which each cam 35 is directly linked to the bearing head 26 of the relevant spring, wherein the bearing head 26 coincides with a shaped end of a sliding arm 25. Thus, Bock does not disclose a hinged connecting rod or that the

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cam element is movable relative to and engages with the at least one hinged connecting rod, as set forth in claim 8.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

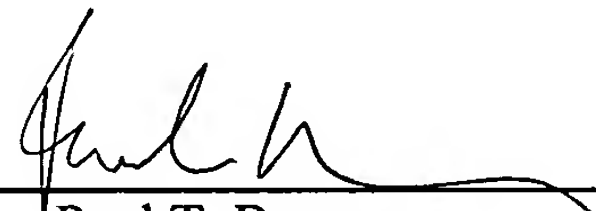
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all the claims are patentable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

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